

# **PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES WITH IMAGING TECHNOLOGY**

## **San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Donates Thermal Imaging Cameras to Eight Local Area Fire Departments and One Training Academy**

**SAN MANUEL INDIAN NATION, Calif. – March 21, 2002** – The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians announced today that in an effort to better protect the communities of the San Bernardino area and continue to be a responsible community partner, it will donate 10 Eagle Imager Thermal Cameras to eight local fire departments and one fire academy on March 21. A special dedication ceremony and live fire burn demonstration using the thermal imaging cameras will take place at 10:00 a.m. at the Richard Sewell Training Center on the grounds of the San Bernardino International Airport.

Thermal imaging cameras are state-of-the-art tools used by firefighters across the country to allow for quicker and more efficient search and rescue, which ultimately saves lives. These high-tech cameras, valued at \$18,000 each, also aid in the identification of the seat of fires and are outstanding at size-up, mop-up and inspections. Nine of the donated cameras will be used in the field by firefighters, and one camera will be designated for training; the benefiting organizations include Rialto Fire Department, Colton Fire Department, Loma Linda Fire Department, Highland Fire Department, Yucaipa Fire Department, Redlands Fire Department, San Bernardino Fire Department, Grand Terrace Fire Department and Crafton Hills College Fire Academy.

"We appreciate the hard work and dedication of the firefighters, and our desire to support them in any way possible was critical to the decision," said Deron Marquez, chairman of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. "We're proud to make this contribution and appreciate the opportunity to give back to the community."

Truly the latest in fire fighting technology, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians felt it imperative for the firefighters and trainers at the Academy to have the best possible equipment to not only make their jobs better, but most importantly, to make them safer. With the Eagle Imager Thermal Camera, a team of firefighters will reduce search and rescue times from minutes to seconds, greatly enhancing their effectiveness as lifesavers. They will be able to visually search a room - scanning every corner and looking behind or under every piece of furniture - in a matter of seconds rather than feeling around blindly, hoping they covered the entire area.

"On behalf of the San Bernardino Valley fire departments, we are all extremely grateful to the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians for the donation of the thermal imaging cameras," said Fire Chief Rolland Crawford, director of public safety/fire chief city of Loma Linda. "These cameras will be an invaluable tool at the forefront of our firefighting efforts and will help us find victims faster."

Coupled with the purchase of three fire engines and one hazardous materials response vehicle for the City of San Bernardino in 2000, The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians continues its commitment to giving back to the community with the donation of these thermal imaging cameras.

The Richard Sewell Training Center at the San Bernardino International Airport is located at 2824 East "W" Street, Building 302 in San Bernardino. For more information call (909) 382-2222, ext 226.

### **About San Manuel Band of Mission Indians**

Descendents of the Serrano Indians, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians inhabited a territory spanning the San Bernardino Mountains, valley and adjoining desert lands for centuries. Today, the tribe is located on the San Manuel Reservation near Highland, Calif. Like other tribal lands in the United States, the San Manuel Reservation is a sovereign nation with its own system of government and tribal laws. The tribe operates the San Manuel Indian Bingo and Casino and the San Manuel Bottled Water Group, in addition to managing a variety of economic ventures. A partner in the community, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians actively contributes to a variety of projects in neighboring areas. Nearby cities and towns receive support from the tribe for cultural, social, and economic projects to benefit the common good of the communities in which the tribe's members live and work.

### **About Scott Health and Safety**

Scott Health & Safety has been a world leader since 1945 in the development and manufacturing of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), airline respirators, emergency escape respirators, air-supplied equipment, air-purifying devices, gas/vapor monitoring instruments, communications equipment, and the all-new thermal camera.